L3

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate)

Qualification Number: 610/3960/3

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate) is designed for post-16 students with an interest in the Digital sector and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Equivalent to one A level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in Information Technology as part of a study programme alongside A levels.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

The qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives and sector experts to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to progress to, and thrive in, higher education.

The qualification has four mandatory units covering the following topics:

- **Information Technology Systems** – Information technology systems, including the relationship between software and hardware, and the issues related to IT systems
- **Cyber Security and Incident Management** – Types of cyber security attacks, the vulnerabilities in networked systems and how to plan and respond to attacks
- **Website Development** – The development tools, techniques and processes used in website development and how to test usability, functionality and fitness for purpose
- **Relational Database Development** – Structure of data, data design and database management systems (DBMS).

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge of digital technologies and how organisations plan digital projects and follow a project lifecycle
- Understanding of organisation structures and processes and how to embed digital safety to keep data and assets secure
- Technical skills to:

  - design and build a website to meet user requirements using relevant tools and techniques, including testing for usability, functionality and fitness for purpose
  - follow a design methodology to create and develop a database design to meet user requirements, including testing the solution
- Transferable skills such as creativity and innovation, written communications, critical thinking and taking personal responsibility.

Students will develop the ability to apply digital concepts to different sectors which is beneficial to the analytical approach included in many degrees. The ability to take personal responsibility and written communication skills will develop students' ability to manage their own work and independently create extended writing tasks which is a good foundation for academic success.

Which subjects will complement this qualification?

The following subjects would be suitable to combine with this qualification:

- Business
- Mathematics
- Psychology
- Art & Design

What further learning will this qualification lead to?

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BA Business Studies
- BSc Business Information Systems
- BSc Business and Management

This qualification is supported by the following Higher Education Institutions:

- Aberystwyth University
- Aston University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- Kingston University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Ulster University
- University of Bath
- University of Bradford

- University of Huddersfield
- University of Hull
- University of Leeds
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- University of Sheffield
- University of the West of England

Further information

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/information-technology-aaq.html